

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 051685

R 111855 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 237

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MONTREAL UNN

UNCLAS QUEBEC 044

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO, CA

SUBJECT: ICFTU- WCL PROTEST ON IMPRISONMENT QUEBEC TRADE  
UNIONISTS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1934

1. THREE- MAN DELEGATION FROM ICFTU, WCL AND SECRETARIAT  
IFFT MET APRIL 10 WITH QUEBEC PREMIER BOURASSA, LABOR MINISTER  
COURNOYER AND JUSTICE MINISTER CHOQUETTE TO DISCUSS  
IMPRISONMENT QUEBEC LABOR LEADERS. MEETING DESCRIBED AS  
CORDIAL, THOUGH BRACONNIER TOLD JOURNALISTS AFTERWARDS  
" THEY HAD NOT COME TO QUEBEC TO PLAY GAMES" AND PEACEFUL  
STATE WAS OVER. THREE VISITORS MET WITH QUEBEC LEADERS IN  
ORSAINVILLE PRISON BEFORE CALLING ON BOURASSA.

2. BRACONNIER, MAIER AND BOULADOUX INSISTED BOURASSA  
GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DONE ALL IT COULD HAVE TO RESOLVE DISPUTE  
WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMON FRONT IN APRIL 1972, AND MAINTAINED  
THAT AT YESTERDAY' S MEETING BOURASSA ADDED NOTHING NEW  
WHICH JUSTIFIED KEEPING LEADERS IN JAIL. BOURASSA REPORTEDLY  
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STRESSED DIVISION OF POWERS IN QUEBEC WHICH LEFT HIM POWERLESS TO ACT IN VIEW OF JUDICIAL DECISION, A POSITION VISITORS FOUND ILLOGICAL SINCE GOVERNMENT HAD TURNED MATTER OVER TO COURTS IN FIRST PLACE. THEY CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR THE IMPRISONED TRADE UNIONISTS, AND WARNED OF DETERIORATION IN SOCIAL CLIMATE IF THEY WERE NOT RELEASED AT ONCE TO CARRY OUT TRADE UNION RESPONSIBILITIES TO WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED.

3. BOTH VISITORS AND ACTING PRESIDENTS QUEBEC LABOR CONFEDERATIONS SAID IF GOVERNMENT FAILED TO RESPOND THEY WOULD MOVE INTO ACTION, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY HOW. MOST PRESS REPORTS POINT OUT VISITING DELEGATION REPRESENTS OVER SEVENTY-FIVE MILLION TRADE UNIONISTS THROUGHOUT WORLD.

4. PREVIOUS NIGHT VISITORS SPOKE AT RALLY OF ABOUT ONE THOUSAND IN QUEBEC CITY. SUDDEN SNOW STORM APRIL 10 PREVENTED RALLY SCHEDULED FOR MONTREAL THAT NIGHT FROM TAKING PLACE.  
MELBY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**TAGS:** ELAB, CA, ICFTU, ILO  
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SECSTATE WASHDC

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